

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) An aspirating roller ~~[[1]]~~ for transferring labels, comprising at least a pair of pads ~~(20;21)~~ projecting relative to a lateral surface ~~[[1a]]~~ of the roller ~~[[1]]~~, ~~characterised in that at least a portion of the lateral surface [[1a]] of the roller [[1]] between the pads (20;21) is elastically deformable, said elastically deformable lateral surface is defined by at least a plate element, characterised in that the plate element has connecting portions which are inserted into corresponding openings present on each pad.~~
2. (Cancel)
3. (Cancel)
4. (Currently Amended) A roller as claimed in claim ~~[[3]]~~ 1, characterised in that it comprises at least a dampening insert ~~[[9]]~~ interposed between a surface ~~[[8]]~~ not in view of the ~~plate-like~~ plate element ~~[[6]]~~ and a structural portion ~~[[1b]]~~ of the roller ~~[[1]]~~.
5. (Currently Amended) A roller as claimed in claim 4, characterised in that the dampening insert ~~[[9]]~~ is made of ~~sponge-like material~~ sponge.

6. (Currently Amended) A roller as claimed in claim ~~[[3]]~~ 1, characterised in that each pad ~~(20;21)~~ has a dovetailed coupling ~~(20a;21a)~~ so shaped as to be coupled with corresponding seats ~~[[10]]~~ obtained on the roller ~~[[1]]~~.

7. (Currently Amended) A roller as claimed in claim 6, characterised in that it comprises at least a stop element ~~[[11]]~~ removably fastened to the roller ~~[[1]]~~ and defining at least a portion ~~[[10a]]~~ of one of said seats ~~[[10]]~~, to maintain in position a pad ~~[[21]]~~ during the operation of the roller ~~[[1]]~~ to allow its possible removal when the roller is in resting condition.

8. (Currently Amended) A roller as claimed in claim 7, characterised in that the stop element ~~[[11]]~~ is removably fastened to the roller ~~[[1]]~~ by means of a mechanical connection.

9. (Original) A roller as claimed in claim 8, characterised in that the mechanical connection is constituted by at least a screw.

10. (Currently Amended) A roller as claimed in claim 1, characterised in that it comprises at least a dampening insert ~~[[5]]~~ interposed between a surface ~~(22, 23)~~ not in view of each pad ~~(20, 21)~~ and a structural portion ~~[[1b]]~~ of the roller ~~[[1]]~~.

11. (Currently Amended) A roller as claimed in claim [[3]] 1, characterised in that the connecting portions comprise a plurality of tabs ~~(6a;6b;6c;6d)~~ so shaped as to be inserted into corresponding slots [[(7)]] present on each pad ~~(20;21)~~.

12. (Currently Amended) A roller as claimed in claim [[2]] 1, characterised in that the ~~plate-like~~ plate element [[(6)]] has a plurality of holes [[(16)]] to allow the aspiration of a label.

13. (Currently Amended) A roller as claimed in claim [[2]] 1, characterised in that the ~~plate-like~~ plate element [[(6)]] is flexible and made of harmonic steel.

14. (Withdrawn and Currently Amended) A method for removing an elastically deformable ~~plate-like~~ plate element [[(6)]], of the type present between a pair of pads ~~(20;21)~~ and defining a lateral surface [[(1a)]] of a transfer roller [[(1)]], characterised in that it comprises the following steps:

- removing a stop element [[(11)]] for a pad [[(21)]] associated to the roller [[(1)]];
- sliding the pad [[(21)]] along a lateral development of the roller [[(1)]], to disengage it from a seat [[(10)]] obtained on the roller [[(1)]] itself;
- disengaging first connecting portions ~~(6a;6b)~~ of the ~~plate-like~~ plate element [[(6)]] from corresponding openings [[(7)]] present on the removed pad [[(21)]];
- disengaging second connecting portions ~~(6c;6d)~~ of the ~~plate-like~~ plate element [[(6)]] from corresponding openings [[(7)]] present on a second pad [[(20)]];
- removing the ~~plate-like~~ plate element [[(6)]], now free.

15. (Withdrawn and Currently Amended) A method for mounting an elastically deformable ~~plate-like~~ plate element $[(6)]$, of the type present between a pair of pads (20;21) and defining a lateral surface $[(1a)]$ of a transfer roller $[(1)]$, characterised in that it comprises the following steps:

- removing a stop element $[(11)]$ for a pad $[(21)]$ associated to the roller $[(1)]$;
- sliding the pad $[(21)]$ along a lateral development of the roller $[(1)]$, to disengage it from a seat $[(10)]$ obtained on the roller itself $[(1)]$;
- inserting second connecting portions (6c;6d) of the ~~plate-like~~ plate element $[(6)]$ into corresponding openings $[(7)]$ present on a second pad $[(20)]$ fastened on the roller $[(1)]$;
- inserting first connecting portions (6a;6b) of the ~~plate-like~~ plate element $[(6)]$ into corresponding openings $[(7)]$ present on the removed pad $[(21)]$;
- reinserting the removed pad $[(21)]$ into the corresponding seat $[(10)]$ present on the roller $[(1)]$;
- fastening the stop element $[(11)]$ to the roller $[(1)]$.